Statement-V

Scheme Maulana Azad National Scholarship for Meritorious Girls belonging to Educationally Backward Minorities

(Rupees in lakh)

Sl.No.	Financial Year	Quota	No. of Scholarships	Amount of Scholarships sanctioned
1.	2003-04	1200	634	63.40
2	2004-05	3000	2781	27810
3	2005-06*	3000	3571	357.10

Identification of the forest dependent communities

3162. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any study to identify the forest-dependent communities who have total dependency on the forests;

(b) whether Government will grant any rights to such communities living in tribal villages and also grant them new rights under the proposed legislations; and

(c) the details of steps proposed to give forest rights to forest-dependent people?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. R. KYNDIAH): (a) The Ministry has not undertaken any study to identify the forest dependent communities.

(b) and (c) The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has introduced a Scheduled Tribes (Recognition of Forest Rights) Bill, 2005 in the Lok Sabha on 13.12.2005, which seeks to recoghise and vest certain rights relating to forest land in forest dwelling scheduled tribes, who have been residing in such forests for generations but whose rights have not been recorded, and to provide a framework for recording the forest rights so vested. The Bill when enacted would recognise the rights of forest dwelling scheduled tribes relating to (a) tenurial security; (b) livelihood, in terms of agriculture and ownership of minor forest produce, including rights to collect, trade and process the same; and (c) traditional and customary rights. The Scheduled Tribes (Recognition of Forest Rights) Bill, 2005 has been referred to a Joint Committee of both the Houses for examination.